

~~SECRET~~

NSC BRIEFING

24 September 1954

SITUATION IN LAOS

- I. Defense minister killed on 18 Sept;
foreign minister in whose house
killings took place reported to
have offered resignation.
 - A. Defense minister had favored
deal with Viet Minh-sponsored
rebel chief.
 - B. Terrorists motive in killing
remains unclear.
- II. Since early Sept govt had sought
compromise with rebel leader Sou-
phanouvong, half-brother of premier.
 - A. Govt hopes to wean rebel
chief away from Viet Minh.
 - B. He reportedly willing support
govt if it rids self of
Western influence.
 - C. Crown Prince Savang opposes
deal with rebel chief.

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